

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SIG-03 MMO-01 IO-13 HA-05 A-01 EB-08 DOE-11

SOE-02 ACDA-12 SNM-05 OES-07 STR-07 TRSE-00

COME-00 CU-04 AID-05 DOEE-00 /147 W

-----024450 242117Z /63

P 241812Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1320

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PREP, VE

SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN

REF: (A) STATE 34007; (B) STATE 36536

1. OUR STRATEGY TOWARD VENEZUELA RESTS ON THE BASIC PREMISE THAT VENEZUELA'S FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION ARE VALUABLE, BECAUSE OF BOTH SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL INTERESTS AND VENEZUELA'S CAPACITY TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL ROLE ON A VARIETY OF GLOBAL ISSUES. IT IS SHPAED BY THE BASIC NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, I.E., WHILE THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION SHARES COMMON OBJECTIVES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND REDUCTION OF TENSION-SPOTS, AS WELL AS POSSESSING A CLOSE AFFINITY AND HIGH PERSONAL REGARD FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES AND CONFLICTS IN PERCEIVED INTERESTS REGARDING A WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC ISSUES PARALLELING AND REFLECTING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVISION.

2. TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, THE BASIC CONCEPT OF OUR STRATEGY IS TO UTILIZE AN INTERLOCKING NET OF
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CONSULTATIONS AND INTERCHANGE ALONG THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF OUR RELATIONSHIP: CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON HEMISPHERE/WORLD ISSUES; COORDINATION OF STRATEGIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA; AVAILING OURSELVES AS APPROPRIATE OF GOV'S OFFERS TO HELP ON SUCH MATTERS AS CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT: QUICK AND EFFECTIVE USG RESPONSES TO VENEZUELAN EXPRESSED NEEDS AND INTIATIVES.

3. THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ALSO REFLECTS THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) THE TIME-FRAME OF THIS EXERCISE SPANS A CHANGE IN GOV ADMINISTRATION; PEREZ HAS ONLY ONE YEAR REMAINING IN OFFICE, AND HIS SUCCESSOR IS UNKNOWN. THEREFORE, THE SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION ADDRESS ESSENTIALLY ONLY THE NEXT YEAR; ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE SECOND YEAR WILL DEPEND UPON THE NATURE OF THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION AND ITS VIEWS ABOUT US. (B) THE NATURE OF MOST OF OUR OBJECTIVES IS SUCH THAT THE EMBASSY'S ROLE AS A MISSION IN ACHIEVING THEM WILL BE LARGELY THAT OF "DIRECTING TRAFFIC" AND THINKING OF IDEAS. ESSENTIALLY, IT IS US POLICIES AND ACTIONS ON GLOBAL MATTERS WHICH WILL HAVE MOST TO DO WITH ACHIEVING OUR GOALS; AND IT IS WASHINGTON'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE INFORMATION BRIEFINGS AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES AS WELL AS COGENT, PROMPT RESPONSES TO GOV REQUESTS AND INITIATIVES WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF OUR STRATEGY.

4. A SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS PER MAJOR GOAL IS AS FOLLOWS, ROMAN NUMERALS BEING KEYED TO THOSE IN REF (B):

I. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY. THE CONCEPT HERE IS TO FIND WAYS TO COORDINATE AND CONSULT, THERE BEING NO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFLICT OF OBJECTIVE BETWEEN US. OUR PROBLEM, IN FACT, MAY BE PEREZ INTERPREATION OF THE OBJECTIVE (ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGEMENT OF DEMOCRACY) AS LOGICALLY REQUIRING MORE ACTIVISM THAN WE AGREE WITH, AND THE CONSEQUENT POTENTIAL FOR DIVERGENCE--EVEN DISILLUSIONMENT--BETWEEN US ON SPECIFIC CASES. NICARAGUA IS A CASE IN POINT. COURSES OF ACTION WOULD INCLUDE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING VISITS BY US OFFICIALS HERE; COORDINATION OF STRATEGY (ONCE WE HAVE DECIDED WHAT WE WANT TO DO) FOR STRENGTHENING UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY; EMBASSY SPONSORSHIP OF SEMINARS OF ROLE OF PRESS AND PLACEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUPPORT-OF-DEMOCRACY ARTICLES.

II. COOPERATION IN ENERGY. HERE WE WANT TO SYSTEMATIZE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS, SOMETHING WHICH THE MARCH 6 HERNANDEZ-SCHLESINGER MEETING IS SUPPOSED TO INITIATE. PERIODIC, INFORMAL, BILATERAL CABINET-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED; SPECIFIC ENERGY R AND D AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT; EXCHANGES OF EXPERTS UNDER A SYSTEMATIC PLAN WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. WASHINGTON SHOULD FOCUS ON VENEZUELA'S MARKETING PROBLEMS, AND DETERMINE WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO, E.G., GOVERNMENT-

TO-GOVERNMENT PURCHASES, THE ROLE OF SECURE SUPPLY IN OUR IMPORT PROFILE. WE WILL MAKE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS ON OPEC PRICE ISSUE WHEN AND AS WE ARE PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ANALYSES. EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SATISFACTORY TERMINATION OF THE OIL NATIONALIZATION PROCESS. APPROPRIATE MEDIA PLACEMENT ON ENERGY PROBLEMS AND POLICIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

III. NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL. THE LEIT MOTIF HERE IS AGAIN CONSULTATION/COORDINATION: PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION TO GOV ON OUR POSITION AND OUR ANALYSES OF ISSUES, ESPECIALLY TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. DECIDE USG POSITION ON GOV'S BASIC PROPOSALS (A) TO HANDLE NUCLEAR
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PROGRAMING WITH A REGIONAL MULTILATERAL CENTER AND (B) MEET ARMS LIMITATION PROBLEM BY REMOVING EXCUSES FOR ARMS, I.E., BOLIVIAN-PERU-ECUADOR TENSIONS. UTILIZE "PUBLIC DIPLOMACY" TO DISTRIBUTE POLICY STATEMENTS, ANALYSES AND ARTICLES.

IV. BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. CONTINUE TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS, EXHIBITIONS, AND OTHER COMMERCIAL SERVICES. MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH GOV TRADE OFFICIALS RE MTN AND OTHER TRADE ISSUES. MOUNT VISITS TO CARACAS TO USG EXPERTS ON NORTH-SOUTH AND MTN, TO CONSULT AND EXPLAIN US VIEWS. MAKE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS ON BUSINESS DISPUTES. UTILIZE INFORMATION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES. WE NOTE THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL WILL REQUIRE PARTICULAR USG FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS.

V. COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. PLANS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES THERE IS A CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND PERCEPTIONS; ON OTHERS THERE IS PRETTY COMPLETE CONGRUENCE; AND ON SOME THERE IS CONGRUENCE BUT DISAGREEMENT AS TO IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY, E.G., NICARAGUA. THE LIST OF SUB-OBJECTIVES, THEREFORE, MUST BE QUALIFIED AS TO THEIR UTILITY AND PROSPECTS. INSTRUMENTALLY, THE VARIOUS SUB-OBJECTIVES OF THIS GOAL WILL BASICALLY AGAIN HAVE TO BE HANDLED BY CONSULTATION/REPRESENTATION. PROVISION TO EMBASSY OF UP-TO-DATE, SOPHISTICATED ANALYSES AND BACKGROUND WHICH IT CAN SUPPLY TO THE GOV TO INSURE ACCURACY OF THE LETTER' PERCEPTIONS IS ESSENTIAL, E.G., INFORMATION ON FARICA. DESPATCH OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS WHO CAN DEAL WITH EQUALLY SOPHISTICATED VENEZUELAN EXPERTS (PEREZ GUERRERO, AGUILAR, ETC.) ON LOS, ILLICIT PAYMENTS, TERRORISM, NORTH-SOUTH
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CONSULTATIONS IS INDISPENSABLE. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS CALL FOR BILATERAL EFFORTS, REPRESENTATIONS, "PUBLIC" DIPLOMACY, CONSULTATIONS BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON ON EACH OF THE ITEMS COVERED IN THE SUB-OBJECTIVES.

VI. ENCOURAGEMENT TO PLAY REGIONAL ROLE. AGAIN, THIS GOAL CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY FULL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION OF STRATEGIES. ON CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT INFORM GOV OF THINKING AND PLANS FOR SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING, AND SEEK GOV INPUTS. CONSIDER VENEZUELAN INITIATIVES, E.G., BOLIVIAN ACCESS PROBLEM, AND CARRY OUT FRANK EXCHANGES ON DIVERGENCES OVER HOW TO DEAL TACTICALLY WITH REGIONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS NICARAGUA OR BELIZE.

VII. GOOD BILATERAL WORKING RELATIONS. ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS "CATCH-ALL" GOAL WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE OTHERS. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY WILL, FUNCTIONALLY, REQUIRE CONSULTATION, REPRESENTATIONS, PROMPT RESPONSES TO THEIR INITIATIVES AND REQUESTS, AVOIDANCE OF THE "SPURNED SUITOR" SYNDROME OR OF MISPERCEPTIONS LEADING TO VENEZUELAN DOUBTS OF OUR CREDIBILITY OR SINCERITY. A CENTRAL PROPOSAL WILL BE INVITATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME TO WASHINGTON FOR A TOUR'DHORIZON OF RELATIONS AND ISSUES. OTHER PLANS CALL FOR FULL UTILIZATION OF LIMITED AVAILABLE SECURITY ASSISTANCE, EXCHANGE OF PERSONS PROGRAM AND STIMULATION OF PRIVATE TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGES. WE WILL SEEK TO PUSH AGREEMENTS AND PROJECTS INVOLVING EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CARACA01825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0821
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaoxz.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 78d838d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 34007, 78 STATE 36536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3491848
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
TAGS: AMGT, PEPR, VE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/78d838d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014